

REMARKS

Claims 1-3 and 5-67 are pending in the application. Claims 2, 3 and 5-65 are allowed. Claims 1, 66 and 67 are rejected. Claims 1, 66 and 67 are cancelled. Claims 2, 3, and 5-65 remain.

It is asserted in the Office Action that Claim 1 is rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Saito et al. (US 5,940,432). Claim 66 is rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Saito et al. (U.S. 5,940,432), in view of Hiramatsu et al. (U.S. 5,031,191). Claim 67 is rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Saito et al., in view of Uchida et al. (U.S. 6,366,603).

In response to the above rejections, Applicant has cancelled Claim 1, and its dependent claims 66 and 67.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that all claims pending for examination, namely claims 2-3, and 5-65 are now in condition for allowance, which early Action is requested.

If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge those fees to our Deposit Account No. 02-2666. If a telephone interview would expedite the prosecution of this Application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (310) 207-3800.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN

Dated: _____

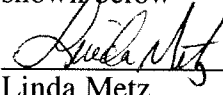
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CERTIFICATE OF ELECTRONIC FILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being submitted electronically via EFS Web on the date shown below


Linda Metz

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